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(11) **EP 1 033 372 A1**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:  
06.09.2000 Bulletin 2000/36

(51) Int. Cl.7: **C07K 7/06**, A61K 38/08,  
A61K 38/31, A61K 45/00

(21) Application number: **98954713.8**

(86) International application number:  
PCT/JP98/05172

(22) Date of filing: **18.11.1998**

(87) International publication number:  
WO 99/25729 (27.05.1999 Gazette 1999/21)

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE**

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(30) Priority: **18.11.1997 JP 35602597**

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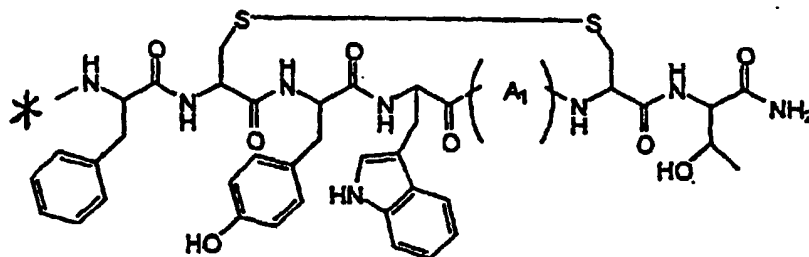
(54) **COMPOUNDS WITH ANTITUMOR ACTIVITY**

(57) Compounds represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:

X-L-Y

(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

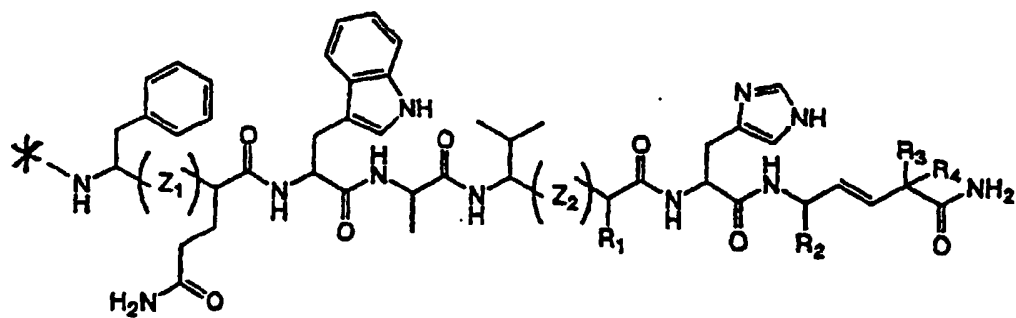
**TT232: general formula**



(wherein A<sub>1</sub> represents a lysine residue, a citrulline residue, an arginine residue or an ornithine residue; and the amino and carboxyl groups bonded to the α-carbon atom are each bonded to form an amide); or

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EABI: general formula



## Description

## TECHNICAL FIELD

- 5 [0001] This invention relates to conjugates which are useful in treating cancer and anticancer agents containing these conjugates as the active ingredient.

## BACKGROUND ART

- 10 [0002] It is known that taxols such as docetaxel and paclitaxel inhibit cell proliferation based on the effects of promoting tubulin polymerization and stabilizing microtubules, thereby showing antitumor activity. Owing to these characteristics, taxols are expected as being useful as anticancer agents with a novel function mechanism. In particular, attempts have been made to clinically apply taxols to remedies for mammary cancer, ovarian cancer and nonsmall cell lung cancer (K.C. Nicolau, *Nature*, 367, 630 (1994); R.A. Holton, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 116, 1587 (1994); D. Masopaulo, A. Camerman, Y. Luo, G.D. Brayer & N. Camerman, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 92, 6920 (1995); Gan to Kagakuryohoho (Cancer and Chemotherapy) 21(5), 583 (1994)).

[0003] However, these compounds are poor in solubility and thus studies are in progress both in Japan and abroad to overcome this problem.

- [0004] On the other hand, it is known that many tumor cells show overexpression of somatostatin receptor (Y. Yamada & S. Kiyono, *Saibo Kogaku (Cell Technology)*, 12(9), 665 (1993); S. Kiyono & Y. Yamada, *Naibunpitsugaku no Shinpo (Advances in Endocrinology)*, 10, 41 (1992)). It is also known that somatostatin derivatives such as octreotide show antitumor activity via the activity of inhibiting tyrosine kinase. In particular, Keri et al. recently reported a tumor cell-specific derivative TT232 (Gy. Keri, et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.*, 191, 681(1993); Gy. Keri, et al., *Peptide Research*, 6, 281(1993); Gy. Keri, et al., (1993), *Peptide Chemistry 1992*, ed. N. Yanaihara (Leiden:ESCOM Science Publishers B.V.) pp. 334-336; Gy. Keri, et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 93, 12513 (1996)).

- [0005] Moreover, bombesin-like peptides (GRP; gastrin releasing peptide, NM-C; neuromedin C) have been identified as autocrine growth factors of small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and it is known that receptors of these peptides are overexpressed on SCLC. Accordingly, it is expected that efficacious bombesin antagonists might be useful as anticancer agents specific to SCLC (F. Cuttina, *Nature*, 316, 823 (1985); D.H. Coy, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 264, 14691 (1989); L.H. Wang, *Biochemistry*, 29, 616 (1990); D.H. Coy, *Eur. J. Pharmacol.*, 190, 31 (1990)). The present inventors synthesized EABI [(E)-alkene-bombesin isostere] which contains an (E)-alkene type dipeptide isostere (N. Fujii, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 32, 4969 (1991); N. Fujii, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin I*, 1995, 1359) and clarified that this substance shows a potent antagonism in the amylase secretion system (M. Wada, *Pancreas*, 10, 301 (1995); N. Fujii, *Peptides 1994*, ed. H.L.S. Maia, *Escom Science Publishers B.V.* (1995), pp. 77-78; K. Fujimoto, *Life Sciences*, 60, 29 (1997)). In these days, it has been a practice to use cisplatin, carboplatin, etc. as the first-line drugs for SCLC. However, these drugs still suffer from some problems including side effects and the expression of tolerance thereto.

[0006] Therefore, it has been further required to develop drugs which are free from the problems encountering in the conventional anticancer agents, for example, short blood half time of peptide antitumor substances and poor solubility of highly efficacious anticancer agents such as paclitaxel derivatives.

## DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

- [0007] An object of the present invention is to provide drugs with antitumor activity which are useful as remedies for cancer such as digestive system cancer, mammary cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, etc., more particularly, anticancer agents comprising conjugates wherein a peptide ligand capable of binding specifically to a receptor expressed specifically in tumor cells is covalently bonded to a paclitaxel derivative via a linker.

- [0008] As a result of intensive studies to solve the above-described problems, we found that the above problem can be solved by using conjugates and that the conjugates exhibit excellent effects as anticancer agents wherein one or more compounds with antitumor activity are chemically bonded to a peptide or a pseudopeptide having an affinity for a receptor expressed on tumor cells, thereby completing the present invention.

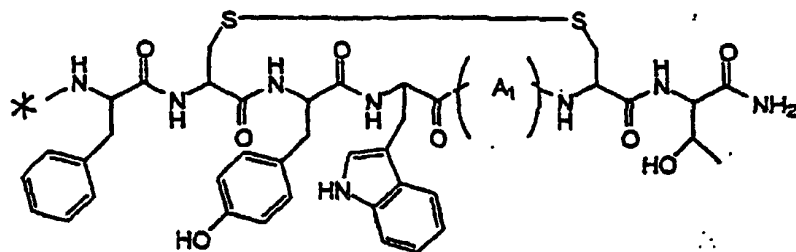
[0009] Accordingly, the present invention provides a conjugate wherein one or more compounds with antitumor activity are chemically bonded to a peptide or a pseudopeptide having an affinity for a receptor expressed on tumor cells.

- [0010] The present invention further provides a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:



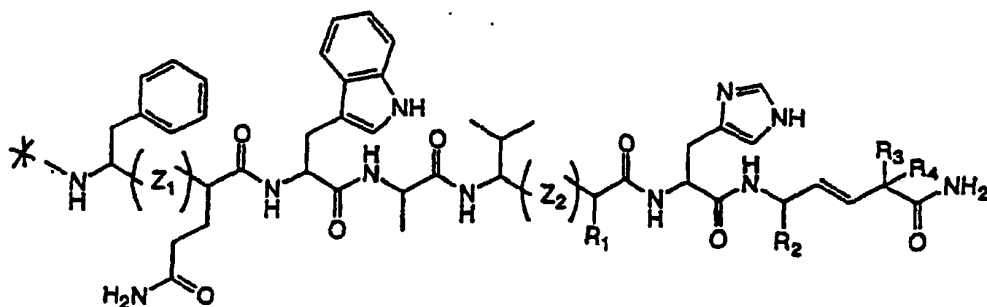
(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

**TT232: general formula**



(wherein  $A_1$  represents a lysine residue, a citrulline residue, an arginine residue or an ornithine residue; and the amino and carboxyl groups bonded to the  $\alpha$ -carbon atom are each bonded to form an amide); or

**EABI: general formula**



(wherein  $Z_1$  represents  $C(=O)NH$  or  $(E)CH=CH$ ;  $Z_2$  represents  $C(=O)NH$  or  $(E)CH=CH$ ;  $R_1$  represents H or a methyl group;  $R_2$  represents an isobutyl group or an isopropyl group;  $R_3$  represents H, an isobutyl group or a benzyl group; and  $R_4$  represents H or an isobutyl group); and

\* represents a bond to L

[0011] The present invention further provides a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:



(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

TT232: specific compound 232

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or

EABI: specific compound

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and

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\* represents a bond to L.

[0012] The present invention further provides a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:



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(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

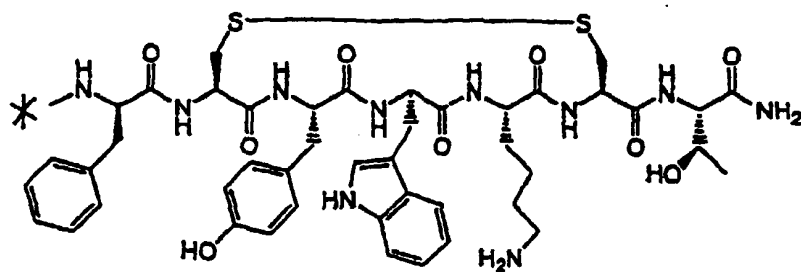
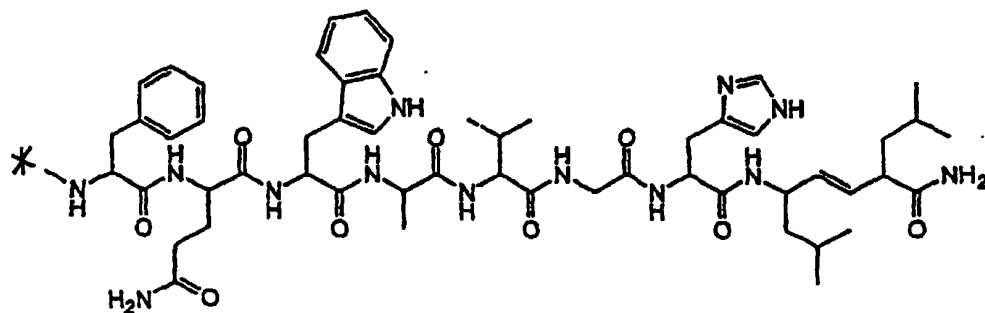
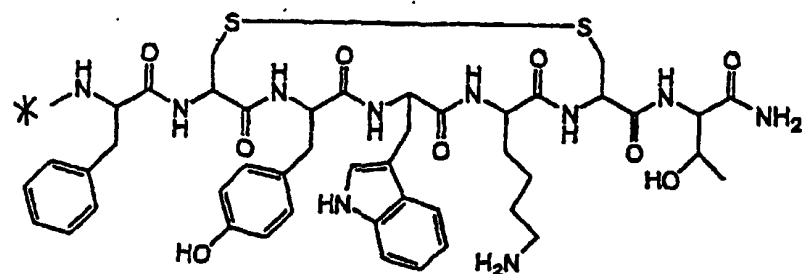
TT232: specific compound (optically active)

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or



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**[0013]** Moreover, the present invention further provides compositions with antitumor activity and anticancer agents which contain the compounds represented by the above general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof.

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BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

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A

**[0019]** The linker L having a functional group is not particularly restricted, so long as it exerts no undesirable effect on the antitumor activity. As above mentioned linker L, there may be mentioned, for example, -(CO)-A-(CO)- (wherein A represents an optionally substituted alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms). In this case, examples of the substituent in A (i.e., an optionally substituted alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms) include linear or branched alkyl groups having 1 to 3 carbon atoms and hydroxyl group.

**[0020]** X and L may be bonded to each other in an arbitrary manner without restriction, so long as the object of the present invention can be achieved. For example, the -CO moiety of the linker L having the structure -(CO)-A-(CO)- may be bonded to the 2'-position of X via an ester bond. Alternatively, the -CO moiety of the above-described linker L may be bonded to the 3'-position of X via an amide bond. It is particularly preferable that the -CO moiety of the linker L is bonded to the 2'-position of X via an ester bond.

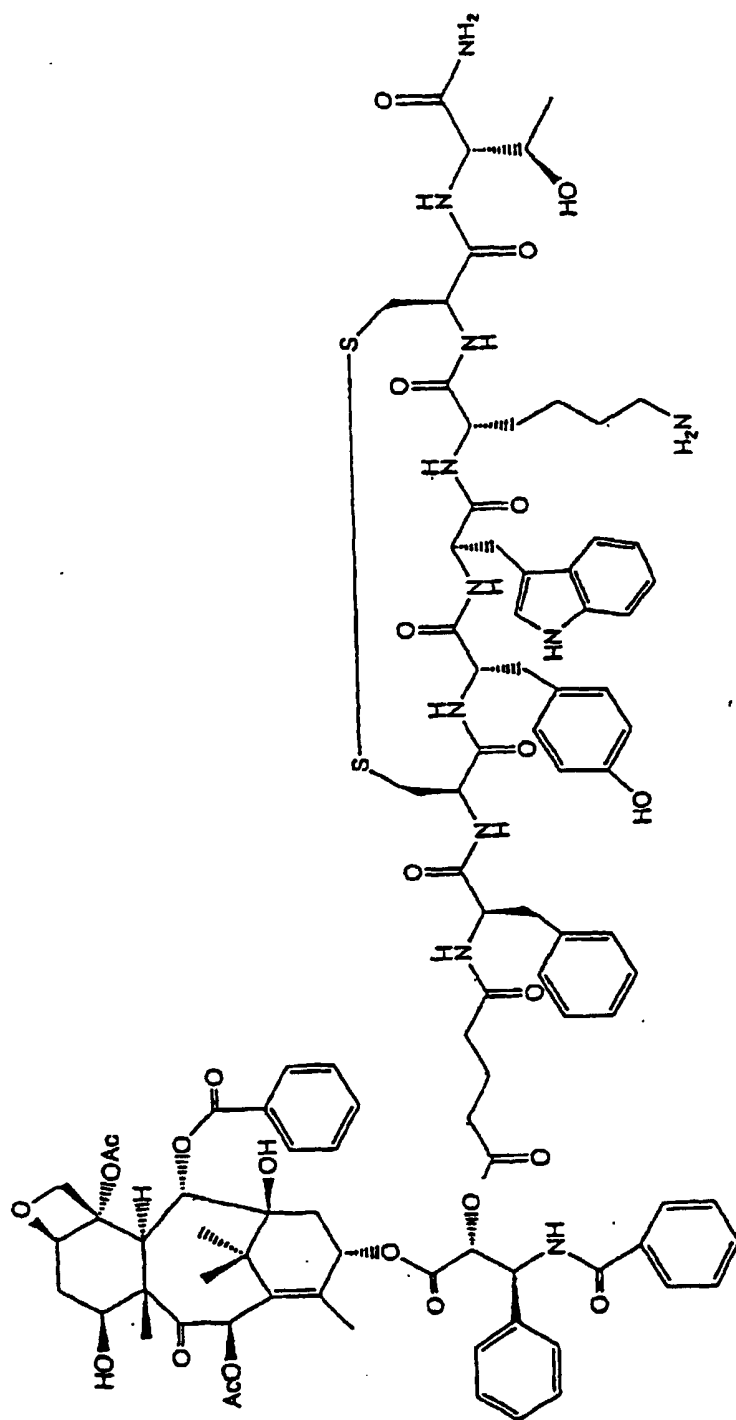
**[0021]** Also, L and Y may be bonded to each other in an arbitrary manner without restriction, so long as the object of the present invention can be achieved. For example, the -CO moiety of the linker L having the structure -(CO)-A-(CO)- may be bonded to the NH-moiety of Y via an amide bond. It is particularly preferable that the -CO moiety of the linker L is bonded to the NH-moiety of the Phe (phenylalanine) residue of Y via an amide bond.

**[0022]** Preferable examples of X include paclitaxel and docetaxel.

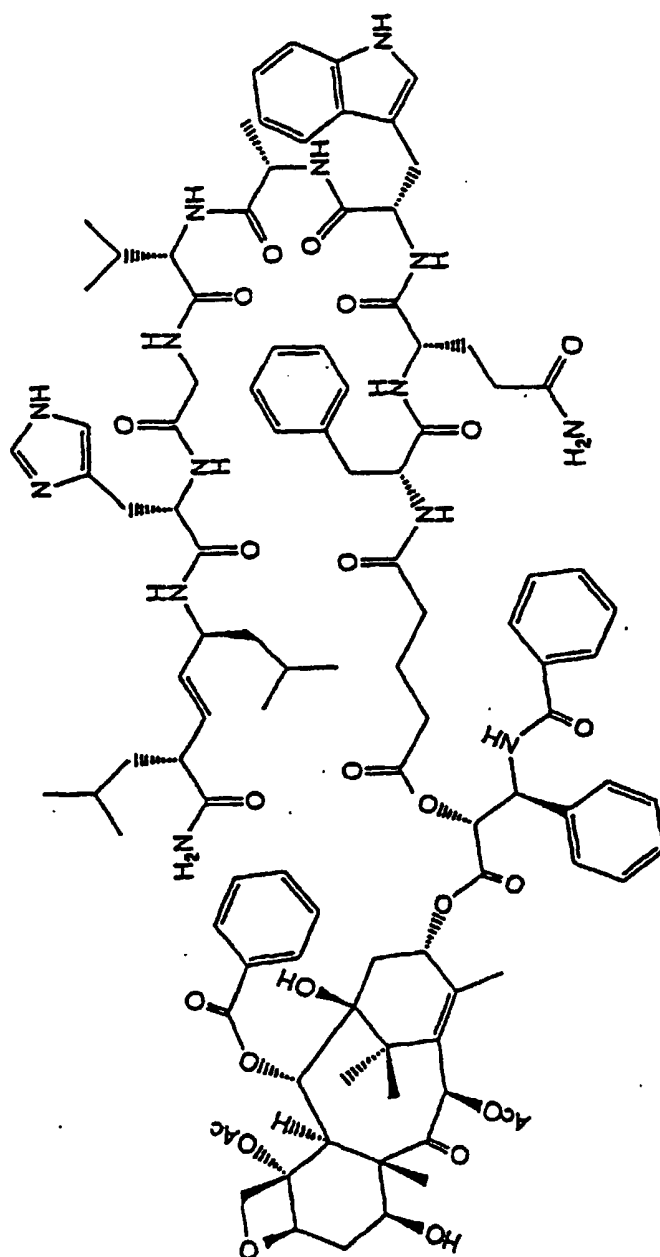
**[0023]** Preferable examples of A include ethylene and trimethylene groups.

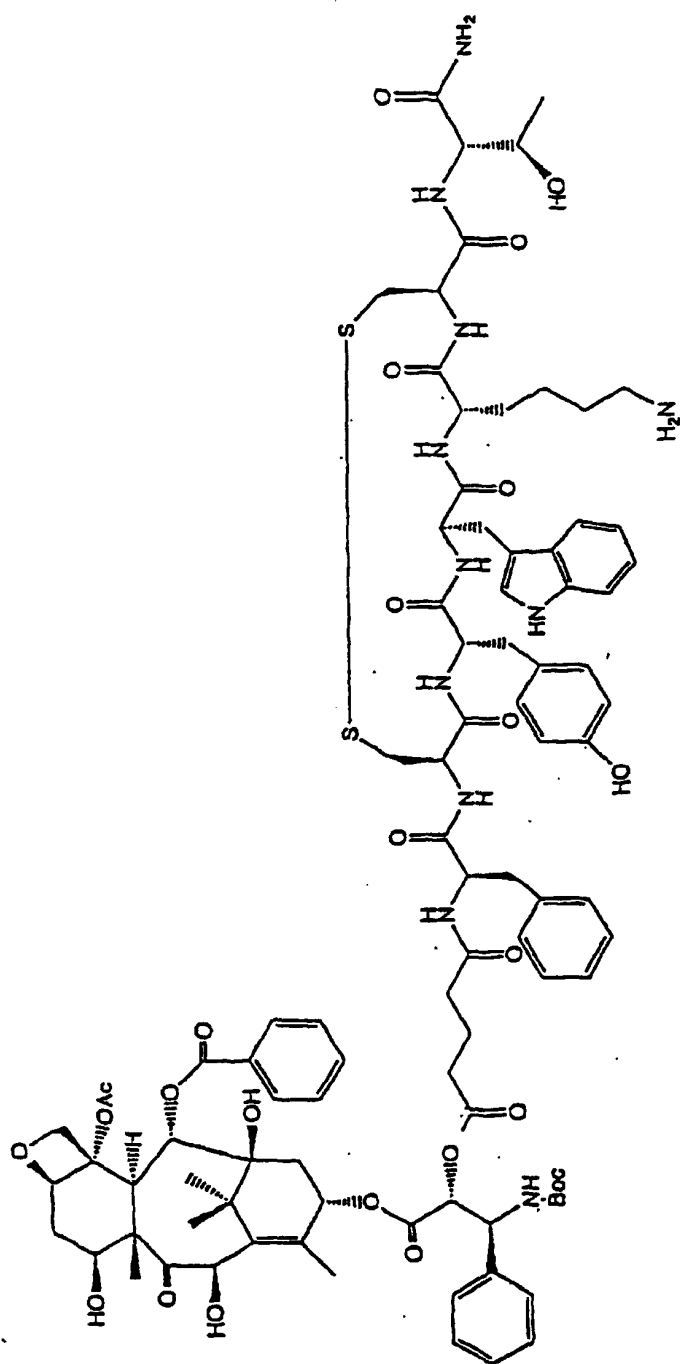
**[0024]** As Y, any group cited in the definition in the general formula (1) is preferable. When Y is represented by the above-described general formula TT232, it is particularly preferable that A<sub>1</sub> is a lysine residue. When Y is represented by the above-described general formula EABI, it is particularly preferable that Z<sub>1</sub> is C(=O)NH, Z<sub>2</sub> is C(=O)NH, R<sub>1</sub> is H, R<sub>2</sub> is an isobutyl group, and one of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is an isobutyl group while the other is H.

**[0025]** Preferable examples of the compounds represented by the general formula (1) include those having the following structural formulae:

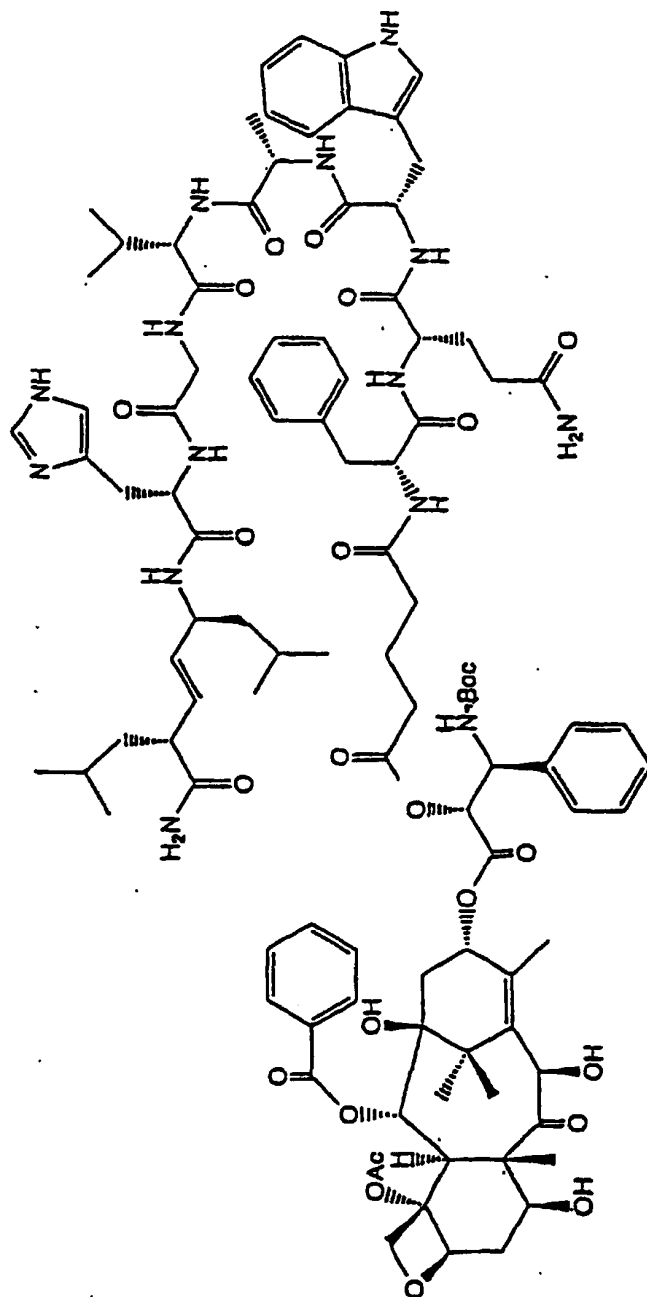








(wherein Boc represents a t-butoxycarbonyl group); and



(wherein Boc represents a t-butoxycarbonyl group).

[0026] In the present invention, the compounds represented by the general formula (1) involve these compounds per se as well as the potential tautomers, stereoisomers and optical isomers thereof and mixtures of the same.

[0027] The conjugate according to the present invention, wherein one or more compounds with antitumor activity are chemically bonded to a peptide or a pseudopeptide having an affinity for a receptor expressed on tumor cells, can be synthesized, for example, by the following method wherein a compound of general formula (1) is employed.

[0028] First, the above-described peptide or pseudopeptide is bonded to a linker. For example, paclitaxel is reacted

with succinic anhydride in the presence of pyridine to give a paclitaxel-linker bond-structure wherein succinic anhydride is bonded via an ester bond to paclitaxel. Next, the thus obtained paclitaxel-linker bond-structure is condensed with EABI by, for example, the WSCDI-HOBt method to give the aimed paclitaxel-(linker)-EABI conjugate.

[0029] The production process as described above will be illustrated by the following chemical formulae:

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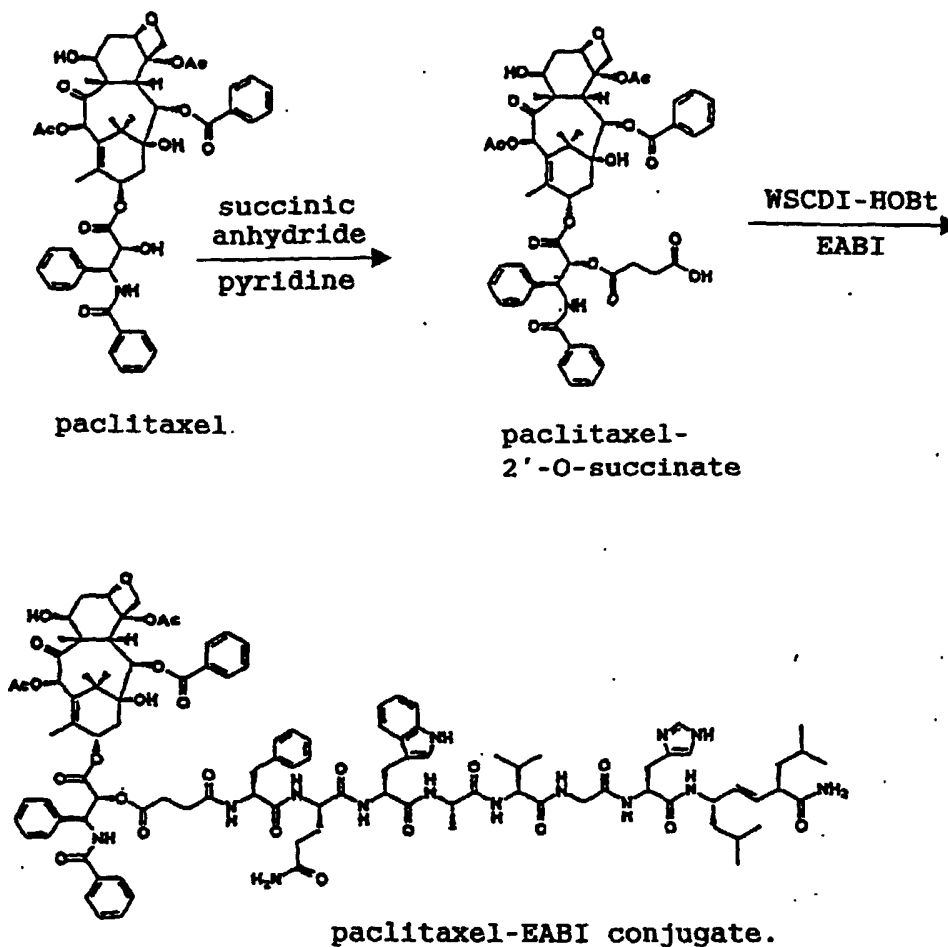
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Note:

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WSCDI: water soluble carbodiimide.  
HOBt: 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate.

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[0030] Although the production process of a conjugate by using paclitaxel, succinic anhydride and EABI is described above, the conjugates according to the present invention can be synthesized in the same manner by using other combinations. For example, conjugates of the following combinations can be produced by the above-described method.

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- (1) Paclitaxel-succinic anhydride-TT232.
- (2) Paclitaxel-glutaric anhydride-EABI.
- (3) Paclitaxel-glutaric anhydride-TT232.
- (4) Docetaxel-succinic anhydride-EABI.
- (5) Docetaxel-succinic anhydride-TT232.

(6) Docetaxel-glutaric anhydride-EABI.

(7) Docetaxel-glutaric anhydride-TT232.

[0031] The paclitaxel or its derivative in the general formula (1) can be obtained by a publicly known method adequate for the desired derivative. For example, paclitaxel can be obtained by the method reported by Kingston, D.G.I., Pharmacol. Ther., 52, 1(1992) and the method disclosed in R.A. Holton, European Patent A 400971, 1990. On the other hand, docetaxel can be obtained by the method disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Disclosure SHO No. 63-30479 and the method reported by Greene, A.E. et al., J. Org. Chem., 59, 1238 (1994).

[0032] The peptide or pseudopeptide to be used in the present invention can be obtained by applying publicly known methods for synthesizing peptides, for example, the method of N. Fujii et al. (Tetrahedron Lett., 32, 4969 (1991); J. Chem. Soc., Perkin I, 1995, 1359). It is also possible to obtain the peptide or pseudopeptide via the expression in host cells with the use of publicly known gene recombination techniques.

[0033] The compounds represented by the general formula (1) may be processed into pharmaceutical compositions, which contain one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, humectants, emulsifiers, dispersants, auxiliary agents, preservatives, buffers, binders, stabilizers, etc., in arbitrary forms appropriate for the desired administration route. Parenteral administration, in particular, intravenous administration is preferable. In the case of parenteral administration, the compositions may be in the form of nonaqueous solutions, suspensions or emulsions. Aseptic preparations can be obtained by, for example, sterile filtration.

[0034] The compounds of the present invention may be administered in an appropriate dose determined depending on the body type, age and conditions of the patient, severity of the disease, time after the onset of the disease, etc. In the case of intravenous administration (in particular, drip infusion), paclitaxel or its derivative (for example, docetaxel) is generally given in an amount of 0.1 to 2 mg/kg.

#### Examples

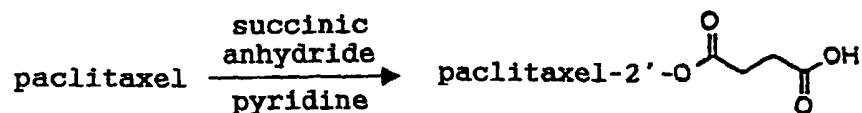
[0035] Production of the compounds of the present invention will be described in greater detail by reference to the following Examples, but it should be understood that the invention is not construed as being limited thereto.

[0036] To exhibit the usefulness of the present invention, the results of Test Example showing the excellent antitumor activity of the compound of the general formula (1) will be also given.

#### Example 1

##### 1. Synthesis of paclitaxel-succinic acid

[0037]



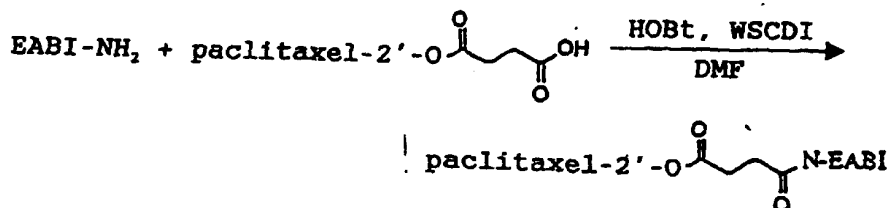
[0038] Paclitaxel (50 mg, 1 equivalent) was introduced into a 50 ml round bottomed flask and dissolved in pyridine (3 ml). Next, succinic anhydride (30 mg, 5.1 equivalents) was added thereto. After stirring at room temperature for 16 hours, the mixture was diluted with 30% MeCN (30 ml). Then it was filtered and purified by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). After freeze-drying, paclitaxel-succinic acid (51.86 mg, yield 92.2%) was obtained.

[ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> : -45.11 (c=0.652, 50% MeCN).

MS(FAB)m/z:	(calculated as C <sub>51</sub> H <sub>56</sub> NO <sub>17</sub> )	(MH <sup>+</sup> )954.3547
	(found)	954.3574.

## 2. Synthesis of paclitaxel-(succinic acid)-EABI

[0039]



Note:

DMF: N,N-dimethylformamide.

[0040] EABI (4.5 mg) was introduced into a 30 ml round bottomed flask and dissolved in 80% MeCN (2 ml). Next, HOBt/DMF (21.8 mg of HOBt dissolved in 50  $\mu$ l of DMF) was added thereto. After adding paclitaxel-succinic acid (5 mg, 1 equivalent) dissolved in MeCN (100  $\mu$ l), WSCDI (16.3  $\mu$ l, 20 equivalents) was further added thereto under ice-cooling. After stirring at room temperature for 2 hours, the mixture was diluted with 30% MeCN (15 ml). Then it was filtered and purified by HPLC. After freeze-drying, paclitaxel-(succinic acid)-EABI (5.68 mg, yield 60.1%) was obtained.

$[\alpha]_D^{23}$ : -28.40 (c=0.122, 50% MeCN).

MS(API)m/z:	(calculated as $\text{C}_{105}\text{H}_{131}\text{N}_{14}\text{O}_{25}$ )	1987.9408 ( $\text{MH}^+$ )
	(found)	1988.5.

## Test Example

## Test Example 1

[0041] By using the paclitaxel-(succinic acid)-EABI conjugate prepared in Example 1, the activity on pancreatic cancer - origin cells was evaluated in the following manner.

[0042] Pancreatic cancer-origin cells (cell line: MiaPACA), which had been incubated for 2 days, were brought into contact for 2 hours with the compound of Example 1 at various concentrations. Then, the cells were incubated in a  $\text{CO}_2$  incubator at 37°C for 48 hours and viable cells were counted. By using paclitaxel as a control compound, the above procedure was repeated.

[0043] Fig. 1 shows the results. As Fig. 1 shows, the paclitaxel-(succinic acid)-EABI conjugate of the present invention shows an antitumor activity comparable to paclitaxel or even exceeding the same. This fact indicates that an anti-cancer agent can be targeted specifically for tumor cells wherein GRP receptor is expressed.

## INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0044] In the compounds according to the present invention, the problem of short blood half time encountering in the conventional peptide antitumor substances can be overcome. At the same time, these compounds of the present invention sustain the advantages (i.e., little side effects, high affinity for tumor cells and high solubility in water) of the conventional peptide antitumor substances and show improved solubility of paclitaxel derivatives and high antitumor activity thereof. Owing to these characteristics, the compounds of the present invention are highly useful as anticancer agents.

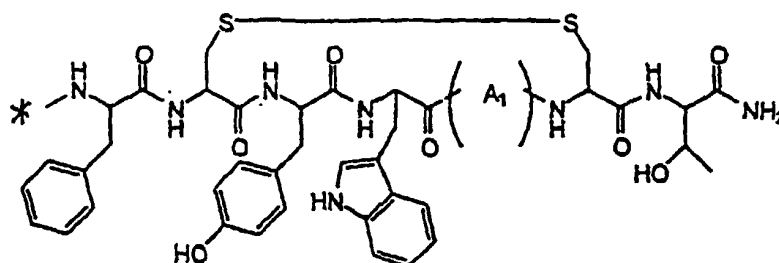
## Claims

1. A conjugate wherein one or more compounds with antitumor activity are chemically bonded to a peptide or a pseudopeptide having an affinity for a receptor expressed on tumor cells.
2. The conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein said receptor is somatostatin receptor.
3. The conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein said receptor is (a) bombesin-like peptides receptors.
4. The conjugate as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein said chemical bond is a bond via a linker and one end of said linker is covalently bonded to the peptide or pseudopeptide while the other end of said linker is covalently bonded to the compound with antitumor activity.
5. The conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said linker is one capable of binding to an amino acid and a hydroxyl group.
6. The conjugate as claimed in claim 4 or 5 wherein said linker is one having two or more carboxyl groups.
7. A compound represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:

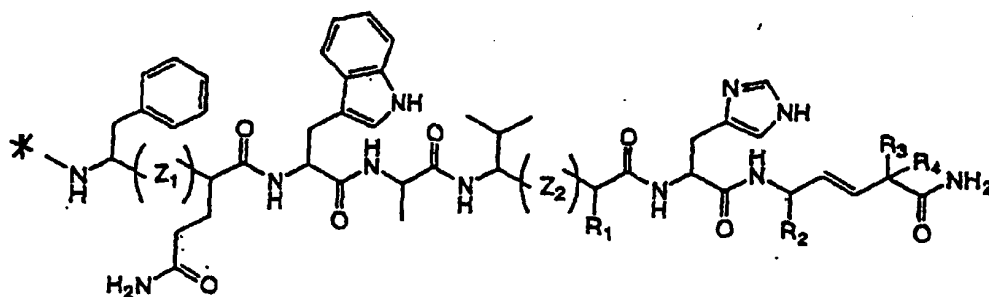


(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

## TT232: general formula



(wherein A<sub>1</sub> represents a lysine residue, a citrulline residue, an arginine residue or an ornithine residue; and the amino and carboxyl groups bonded to the α-carbon atom are each bonded to form an amide); or

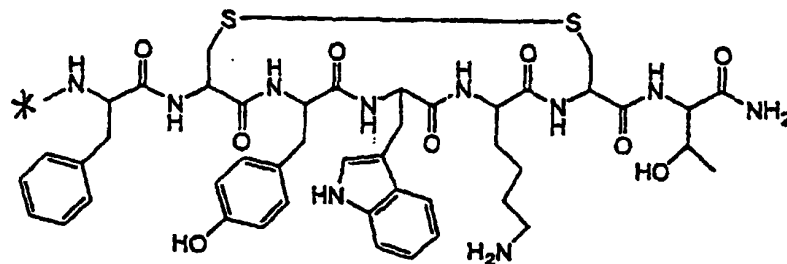
**EABI: general formula**

(wherein  $Z_1$  represents  $C(=O)NH$  or  $(E)CH=CH$ ;  $Z_2$  represents  $C(=O)NH$  or  $(E)CH=CH$ ;  $R_1$  represents H or a methyl group;  $R_2$  represents an isobutyl group or an isopropyl group;  $R_3$  represents H, an isobutyl group or a benzyl group; and  $R_4$  represents H or an isobutyl group); and \* represents a bond to L.

8. A compound represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:



(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

**TT232: specific compound**

or

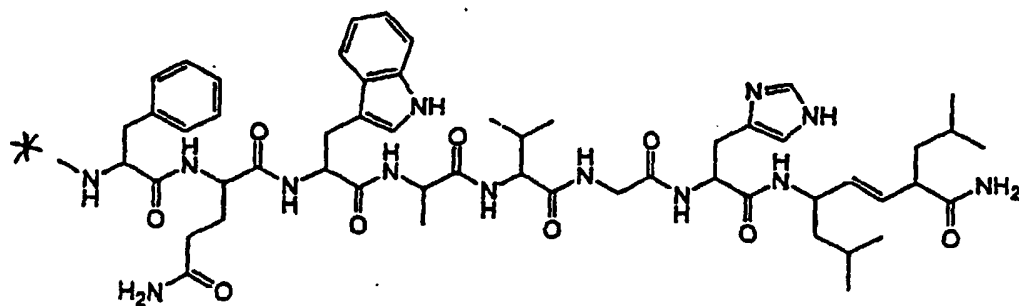


**EABI: specific compound**

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and

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\* represents a bond to L.

9. A compound represented by the following general formula (1) or potential tautomers, stereoisomers or optical isomers thereof:

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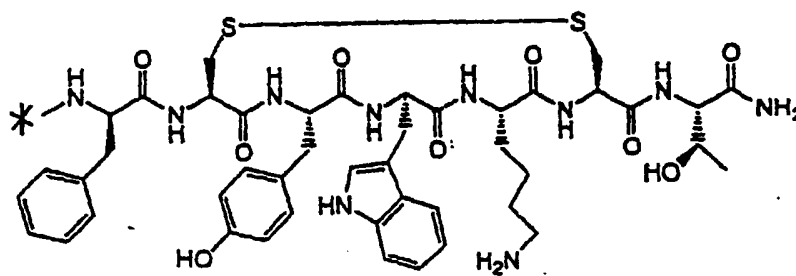
(wherein X represents paclitaxel or its derivative; L represents a linker having (a) functional group(s); and Y represents

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**TT232: specific compound (optically active)**

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or

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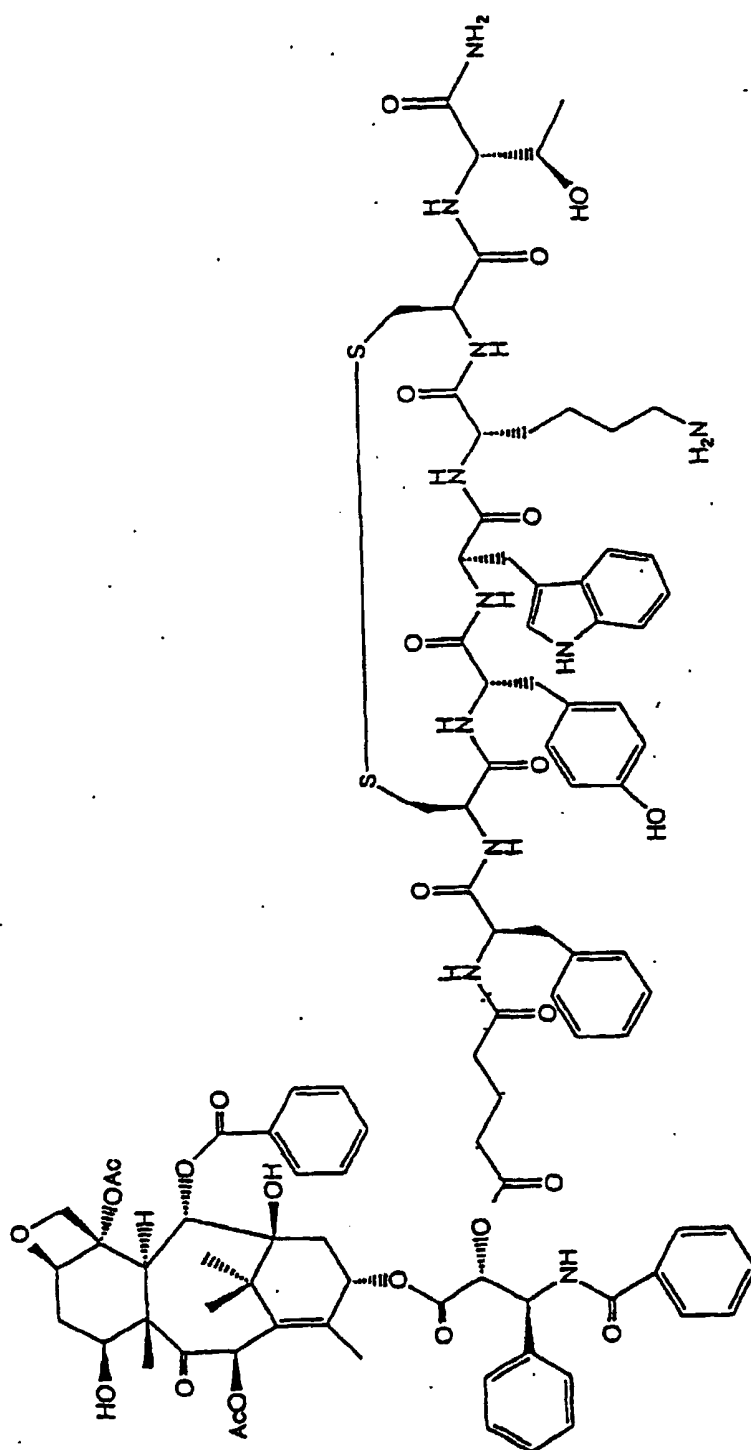
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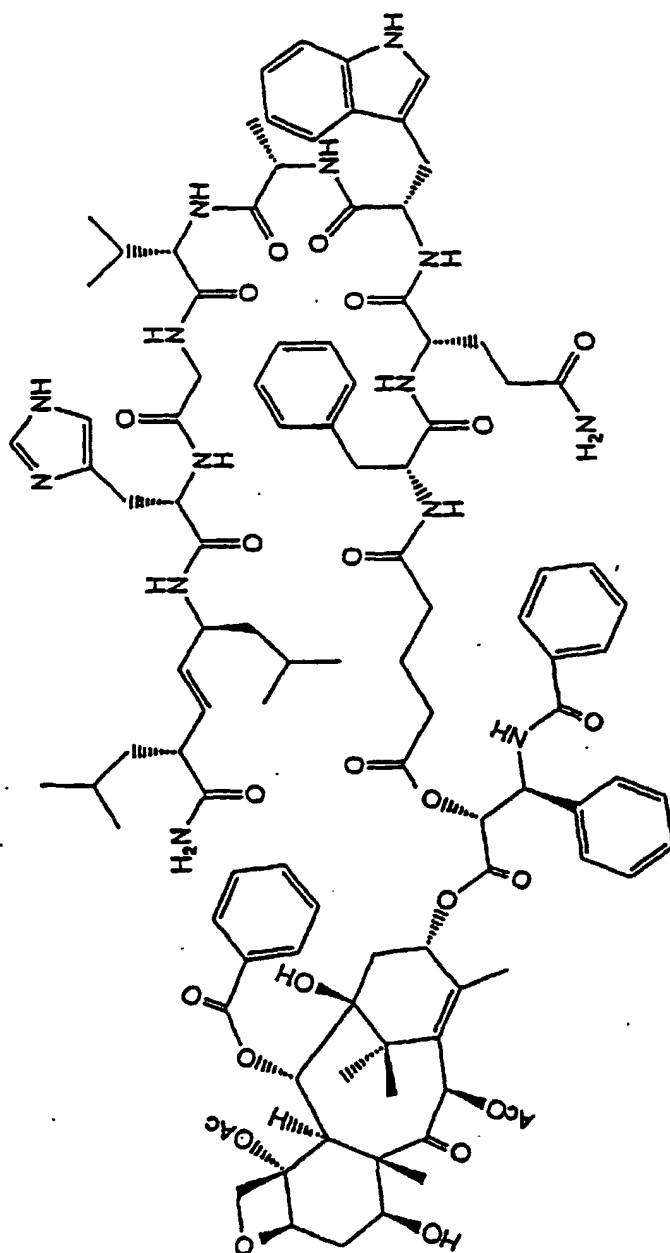
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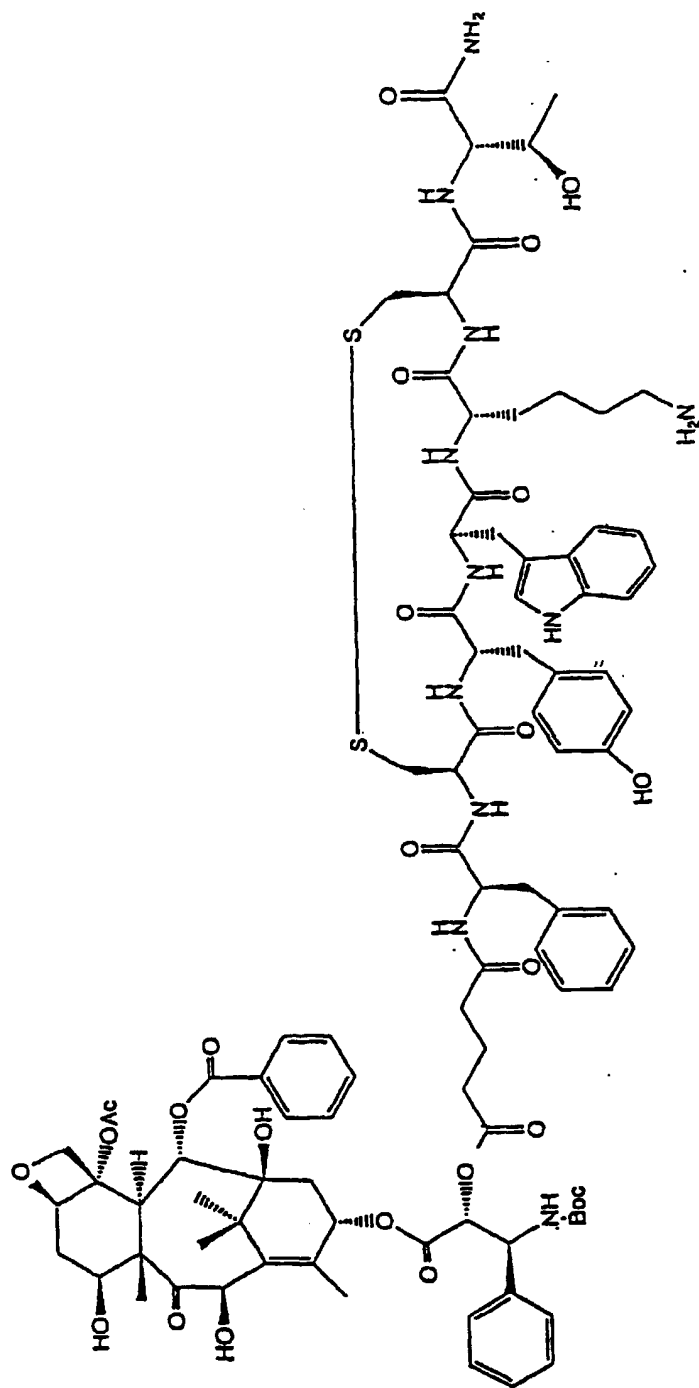
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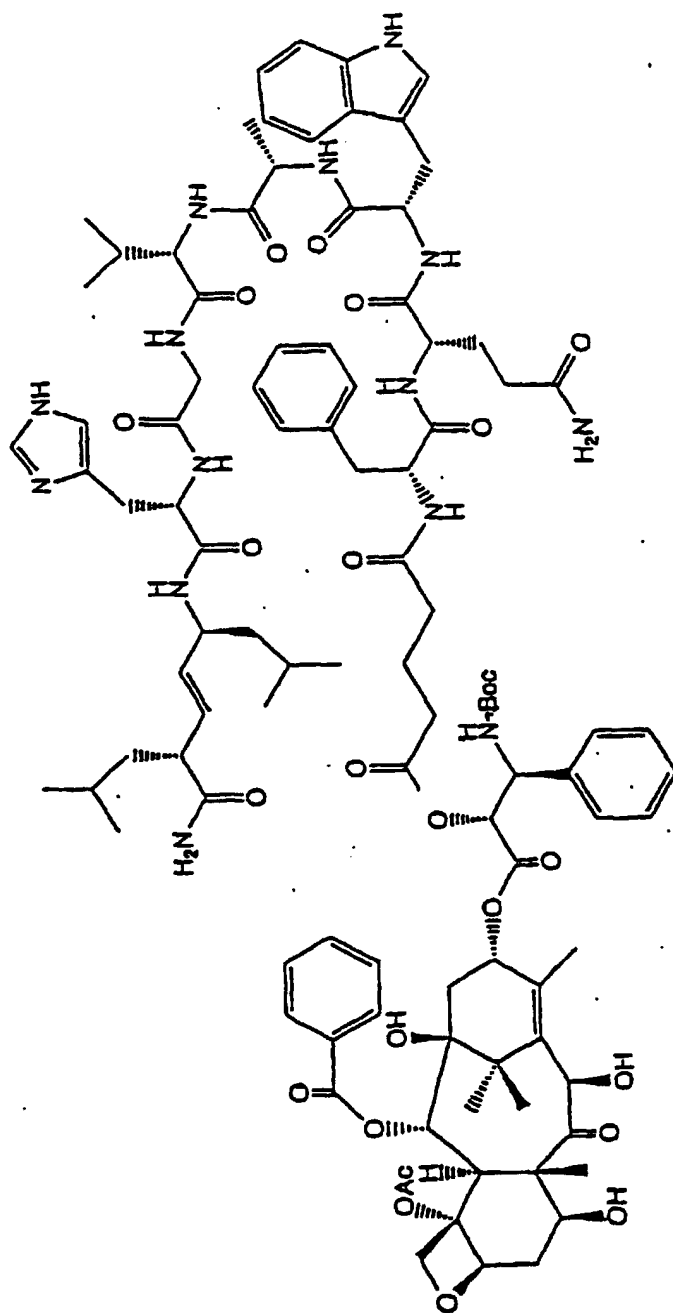
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55 (wherein Boc represents a t-butoxycarbonyl group); and



(wherein Boc represents a t-butoxycarbonyl group).

13. A composition with antitumor activity which contains a compound represented by the following general formula (1):



(wherein X, Y and L are each as defined in any of claims 7 to 9).

**14.** An anticancer agent which contains a compound represented by the following general formula (1):



5 (wherein X, Y and L are each as defined in any of claims 7 to 9).

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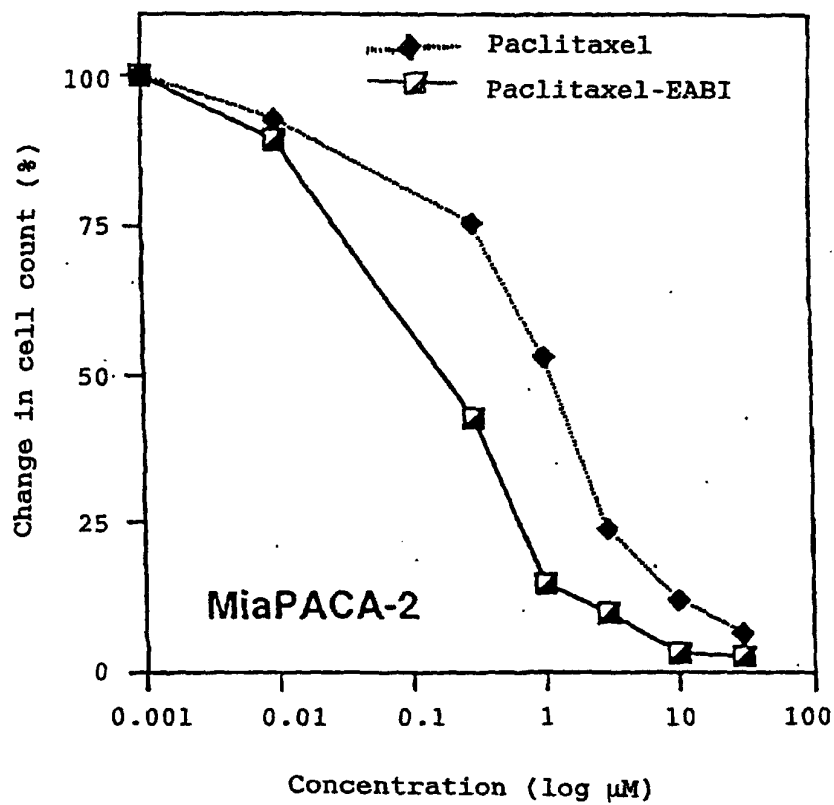
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FIG. 1





## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP98/05172

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> Int.Cl <sup>4</sup> C07K7/06, A61K38/08, A61K38/31, A61K45/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl <sup>4</sup> C07K7/06, A61K38/08, A61K38/31, A61K45/00 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) CAPLUS (STN), REGISTRY (STN), WPI (DIALOG)		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO, 98/19705, A1 (BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY), 14 May, 1998 (14. 05. 98), Abstract ; Claims & AU, 9851597, A	1, 4-5, 13-14
P, X	WO, 98/13059, A1 (BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY), 2 April, 1998 (02. 04. 98), Abstract ; Claims ; FIG. 5 & AU, 9745995, A	1, 4-5, 13-14
Y	JP, 7-70175, A (Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.), 14 March, 1995 (14. 03. 95), Claim 1 ; Par. Nos. [0047], [0067], Chemical formula 56, Par. No. [0139], Chemical formula 83 & EP, 624377, A2	1-14
Y	KERI GY., et al., "A tumor-selective somatostatin analog (TT-232) with strong in vitro and in vivo antitumor activity", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 1996, Vol. 93, No. 22, p12513-12518	1-14
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 18 February, 1999 (18. 02. 99)		Date of mailing of the international search report 2 March, 1999 (02. 03. 99)
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP98/05172

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	FUJIMOTO K., et al., "EFFECTS OF STRUCTURAL MODULATION ON BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF BOMBESIN ANALOGUES WITH (E)-ALKENE BOND", Life Sciences, 1997, Vol. 60, No. 1, p29-34	1-14
Y	JP, 63-30479, A (Rhone-Poulenc Sante), 9 February, 1988 (09. 02. 88), Claims & EP, 253738, A1	1-14
Y	EP, 400971, A2 (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY), 5 December, 1990 (05. 12. 90), Claims & JP, 3-86860, A & US, 5336785, A	1-14

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